



## 50 REASONS WHY WE'RE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS, COMMUNITY BLAINE • SPRING LAKE PARK • FRIDLEY

**PRIDE!** The Spring Lake Park School District recently celebrated its first fifty years of history, excellence, and pride. This includes pride in our students and staff, our parents and families, and our supportive communities of Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Fridley.

With 4,600 students, we are personal in size, yet extra-large in opportunity.

Our purpose statement reads:  
"High Expectations, High Achievement  
For All. No Excuses."

There is much to be proud of and excited about, including the completion of our project to renovate and expand all of our schools, incredible student success, and a vision for the future and roadmap to ensure student achievement and success. The future is bright.

*Our list is bigger, but here are 50 of the reasons why we are proud—and why we think you should be proud—of the Spring Lake Park School District:*



*1st place, top point-getter in both Youth and Adult categories, International Rescue and Emergency Care Association competition.*

- 1** In the past three years, middle school academic teams were 1st in the nation, Continental Math League competition; 2nd in the nation in the WordMasters language arts competition
- 2** *Twenty international emergency care championships, including 2009, for high school Opportunities in Emergency Care teams, and 16 state championships since 1991*
- 3** In national competitions in the past few years, elementary students have accomplished the following: 2nd grade academic team 1st in nation, National Social Studies Olympiad; 2nd grade academic team 1st in nation, National Geography Challenge; and 3rd grade academic team 2nd in nation, National Social Studies Olympiad
- 4** *One of our graduates placed among the top 15 students in the nation in the Physics Bowl.*
- 5** A recent graduate obtained a perfect ACT score, one of only 3 in Minnesota, 33 in the nation
- 6** *The Learning Alternatives Community School is a Minnesota Alternative Program of the Year*
- 7** A recent grad was a 14-year-old who benefited from radical acceleration and a staff that works with the unique needs of each student. He was 5th in his class and has a full scholarship to a prestigious university
- 8** *The high school's Pantherettes Dance Team was third in the state in 2009 and 2008; state champions in 2007, 2006, and 2005*
- 9** After three years of renovation and expansion, it would be hard to find a school district with more up-to-date schools to educate this and the next generation of students

- 10 *One of two school districts in the state to have had two Superintendents of the Year. There have been three all-state School Board members as well*
- 11 *Six of Minnesota's top-ten-scoring high school students in an International Chemistry Olympiad qualifying test*
- 12 *One of the few high schools—anywhere—where life-saving and CPR training are part of the curriculum*
- 13 *Middle school 7th and 8th grade academic team 1st in the state in 2009 Knowledge Master competition*
- 14 *1st in state, 6th grade academic team; 1st in state, 7th/8th grade academic team, 2009 Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl*
- 15 *Tops in nation: Future Leader of America student, three years in a row; 14 state winners in 2009*
- 16 *Staff Professional Learning Communities meet regularly to address curriculum, instruction, staff learning, and student support*
- 17 *Twenty-six elementary students tops in nation with perfect scores in four recent national academic olympiads*
- 18 *In the past few years alone, athletic teams were All-Academic Conference Champs, seven were All-Academic Section Champs, one was State Academic Champion*
- 19 *In a single swim season, a high school junior was a two-time state champ, and the team had four academic All-Americans*
- 20 *District 16 works with community organizations to provide a safe school environment and to promote healthy childhood development, partnering with Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Anoka County Departments, and local police departments*
- 21 *The high school girls golf team had a stellar 2009 season, reaching the state tournament for the first time in school history.*
- 22 *The Lighthouse Program, one of the few of its kind, is for the insatiable, highly able learner, grades 2-12. One student was featured in the New York Times*
- 23 *Top award from National Association of Counties for collaborative, on-site Family Visitation Center*
- 24 *Nationally-recognized Reach for Excellence program recognizes and rewards student achievement*
- 25 *Nearly unequaled opportunities for accelerated, honors, and advanced placement courses*
- 26 *Week-long high school Summer Peer Leadership Camp trains 100 student leaders each year*
- 27 *National staff development experts have identified District 16 as a model site for engaging staff in consistent high quality professional learning experiences to improve student learning*
- 28 *95 percent of parents attend elementary parent-teacher conferences*
- 29 *Two recent members of the same high school football team were Academic All-State selections*
- 30 *Three coordinators serve the needs of K-12 students in the well-respected Gifted Services Department*
- 31 *The district's Spanish Immersion Pilot Program begins in 2009-10 with the kindergarten class*
- 32 *In the 3rd International Science Study, middle school students scored higher than the national average mean of all 41 countries*
- 33 *"Real Men Read" program, aimed at instilling an appreciation for reading in young males, contributed to a 76 percent increase in check-outs of media center resources*
- 34 *Title 1 Program recipient of state of Minnesota's top award for providing specialized reading and math help*
- 35 *Middle school student was three-time entrant, and 2009 state-runner-up in the Minnesota Geography Bee*
- 36 *The high school boys' basketball team placed fourth in the 2009 and 2007 state tournaments.*
- 37 *National and international award-winning summer marching band placed 3rd out of 123 units in one of Canada's largest parades*

*Below: 1st place in the state, Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl, Westwood Middle School 6th grade academic team.*





*High school Jazz/Funk or High Kick teams earned three state titles and 3rd and 6th place state tournament finishes in the past five years.*

- 38** *Unique school district and county partnership produces streamlined, one-stop on-site family health services*
- 39** *Website was named one of five best in a U of M study published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press*
- 40** *Clean buildings, well-maintained grounds compare with any schools, anywhere*
- 41** *Over half of our teachers spend part of their summer working in collaborative professional learning to develop common assessments, model lessons and units, and examine student work to identify methods to better meet student needs*
- 42** *Top-notch on-site program and curriculum for teen parents attending high school with on-site child care*
- 43** *Nearly all students and staff members involved in annual community service projects*
- 44** *One of six Minnesota school districts to receive major federal 21st Century Learning Communities grant to expand learning and recreational services for middle school students*
- 45** *High school theater department is among the best anywhere. In addition, "The VOICE," an issues-oriented teen theater troupe, offers additional opportunities*
- 46** *Nearly \$70,000 in local scholarships given annually to one-third of graduating class by local individuals, companies, and service groups*
- 47** *Construction Trades students build and hand-craft fabulous homes, top to bottom, which are then sold in the local community*
- 48** *All teachers work in teams on a weekly basis to discuss individual student learning needs and collaboratively plan interventions to meet these needs*
- 49** *Successful Online Learning program offers individualized online curriculum and instruction—leading to a high school degree—via computer from home or anywhere*
- 50** *And, finally, School District 16 is extremely proud of its supportive school community that values education.*

*District 16 encompasses all of the City of Spring Lake Park, half of the City of Blaine, and a portion of the City of Fridley.*

*The area is both vibrant and secluded, close to the core of the metropolitan area, but pleasantly away from it as well. District 16 is proud of its school-community partnerships in an involved and supportive community of 25,000.*

*New housing developments, including The Lakes, Deacon's Walk/Tournament Players Club, The Sanctuary, and Pleasure Creek are bringing new vitality to previously undeveloped areas.*

*The Northstar commuter rail project will be an addition in the near future.*

*Our school district community is home to the National Sports Center Olympic Training Facilities, USA Cup—the largest youth soccer tournament in the world, 3M PGA Seniors Championship, and the PGA Tournament Players Club (TPC) of the Twin Cities golf course.*

*You'll also find the Minnesota Medical Enterprise Park, Medtronic, Onan, Unity Hospital, Anoka County Human Services Center, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and Northtown Regional Shopping Center in the District 16 school community.*

*In addition, the area is home to Majestic Oaks, Bunker Hills, and Chomonix Golf Courses; Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts; Bunker Hills Regional Park and Bunker Beach Water Park; Sandhill Crane Nature Area; Wargo Nature Center; and Springbrook Nature Center.*



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